

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
Certificate of Teresa J. Williams)	
)	
Certificate 158339)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 8, 2005. On February 8, 2005, the Office of Teacher Certification served Wendy R. Ward a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by process server. Ms. Williams did not request a hearing during the period specified by the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. William's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Williams holds a valid South Carolina teaching certificate with over eleven years of teaching experience. Ms. Williams held a contract for the 2004-2005 school year with the Greenville County School District. On September 13, 2004, Ms. Williams notified her principal at Mauldin High School that she was resigning her position as a math teacher due to stress. By letter of October 25, 2004, the District's Superintendent wrote to Ms. Williams advising her that her resignation could not be accepted because she had not complied with District Policy. On November 9, 2004, the District Board of Trustees voted to request that the State Board suspend Ms. William's certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach

of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its conclusion that Ms. Williams breached her contract with the Greenville County School District, warranting the suspension of Ms. William's certificate 158339 for a period of one year, from March 8, 2005, through March 9, 2006. Should Ms. Williams wish to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

March 8, 2005